THE WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

PTA Bulletin

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WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MEETING
8 O'clock, November 26, 1956

8:00 - Short Business Meeting

8:15 - Introduction of Panels and Film by Mrs. Carl Marcy, Moderator

YOUTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

What responsibilities do the family, the school, the community, and the law have for our youth? How can we help them to become responsible members of society, able to cope with the many choices of action with which they will be faced? These and other pertinent questions will be answered at our P.T.A. meeting by the following persons experienced in dealing with the problems of youth:

Judge Hugh Reid
Judge of Arlington County Juvenile Court

Mr. Harold Crowley
Clinical Psychologist
Arlington County Guidance Center
Department of Health

Miss Evelyn Wilson
12th Grade Counselor
Wakefield High School

After the showing of a short film "Right or Wrong", which highlights moral decisions of a youth and some adult members of his community, questions will be presented to the panel by a group of parents consisting of:

Mrs. Alice Letzler Mrs. Kathyrn Stone Mr. C. Ernest Wylie

The audience will also have an opportunity to submit questions for consideration and discussion.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Mrs. George E. Clarke and Mrs. O. Gordon Delk, chairman and co-chairman of the Hospitality Committee are pleased to announce that the Parent-Faculty Tea held at the school Sunday, October 28th was a hugh success. They wish to express their sincere appreciation to the many parents who made this possible through their unselfish donation of time, cookies and sandwiches. The Hospitality Committee was especially pleased with the large attendance of the Faculty Members and sincerely hope they enjoyed meeting all the parents on a social basis. The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to Mr. Krasney and the Wakefield High School Orchestra for the fine music furnished and the services rendered by the guides in the check room.

Refreshments will be served by the Hospitality Committee at the P.T.A. meeting on Monday, November 26th.

PTA APPAREL SHOP NEEDS OUR HELP

Would the parents and students of Wakefield like to provide a happy Holiday Season for the less fortunate public school pupils in Arlington County? The way to do this is an easy and inexpensive one. Just gather up all your children's good, outgrown clothing and bring it to the PTA meeting on November 26. A box will be placed near the entrance of the Gym in which you may place the clothing. Be sure that the garments are in good condition and have been cleaned (no soiled or worn out clothing, please). After the clothing has been collected it will be taken to the Apparel Shop and then distributed among pupils who have been referred to the Shop by the school nurses, principals, or teachers. So don't forget to clean out your closets before November 26.

VISION TESTING RESULTS

The importance of vision testing in the public schools cannot be stressed too much, as evidenced by results in testing our own students. The Health Committee has just completed height, weight and vision testing of the students of Wakefield and final results show that out of 1808 students examined there were 254students with poor vision. As you can see, this figure represents approximately 14% of the students examined.

"L I T E U P W A K E F I E L D"

The house-to-house canvass by Wakefield students raised about $6,000 of "Wampum for the Warriors" toward the cost of lighting the football field. Your PTA Executive Committee and the Wakefield Advisory Committee cooperated with Washington-Lee High School sponsors to make this a county-wide drive toward meeting some of the needs for recreational facilities at the two schools. Funds for this purpose are not available from the School Board because of other more urgent needs for school instructional facilities.

The Wakefield Student Council did a very commendable job of organizing and conducting the canvass. The PTA Athletics Committee, headed by Mr. Hugh Hall, provided general leadership. Many others gave significant assistance, and almost 1,000 Wakefield students participated in the solicitation for funds. We gratefully acknowledge this loyal and enthusiastic support.

The amount collected represents about one third of the total needed for lights and some additional seating capacity. We are encouraged by this beginning and expect that the project will be carried to completion as soon as practicable. The funds have been deposited to a savings account at the Arlington Trust Company.

Field lights will make possible a number of evening football games which are better attended and produce substantially more income than day games. Let's all support the Wakefield students in this very worthwhile effort. Contributions may be sent to the "WAKEFIELD STADIUM COMMITTEE, WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL."

LEGISLATION

The special session of the General Assembly passed some twenty school segregation bills, of which four are of particular importance to Arlington:

H. B. 68 transfers pupil assignments from local school boards to a three-man State Placement Board. Parents may appeal individual assignments, first to the Governor, thereafter to the courts.

S.B. 56 automatically removes from the school system and closes any school attended by both races either voluntary or by court order. Authority over the school and all its personnel is then vested in the Governor, who upon investigation, can find either that (1) the school can be reopened as an "efficient" (unintegrated) public school, or that (2) it cannot be reopened under satisfactory conditions. In the latter case, the Governor is authorized to reorganize the school, including assignment of individual pupils. If any child cannot be reassigned, the Governor is authorized to provide it with a tuition grant for private schooling. Closed schools, subsequently reopened by the Governor, may be returned to local school board control and readmitted to State school system. If, however, the local board certifies that a school cannot be reorganized and reopened, it may reopen it as part of the local school system. If this occurs and the school is integrated, all State funds are discontinued in accordance with H.B. 1.

H.B. 1 declares that integration destroys the "efficiency" of the public school system and renders it ineligible for State funds. ($1.3 million in Arlington's case). A community may, however, continue to operate schools with local funds and tuition grants may be provided individual children for private schooling.

H. B. 77 provides that if all schools in an area are closed either because State funds are withheld or because local conditions do not permit operation of schools, the governing body may request the General Assembly to take over the schools. In that case the Governor will operate schools as part of the State system.

Litigation: The School Board's appeal of the Federal judiciary's order that Arlington integrate its elementary schools by January 31, 1957 and its secondary grades by September 1957 is scheduled for hearing by the Federal District Court on November 27.

Burdette's attack on the validity of the June 5, 1956 bond issue referendum is scheduled to be heard by the State Court of Appeals during its term beginning later this month. The suit has delayed the sale of $4,492,150 of school bonds for the construction of Gunston High (1,050 pupils), the second unit of Kenmore (500 pupils) and the planning of Yorktown High, as well as the addition of 25 classrooms and 3 multi-purpose rooms to several elementary schools.

SOME PARENTS ARE ASKING - WHY

Q. Why cannot portions in the cafeteria be adjusted so that those with larger appetites can be satisfied and those with smaller appetites will not have to waste food?

A. The cafeteria workers recognize this problem and try to keep enough plates with various sized portions served and on the counter so that students may match the size of the plate with their appetites. Sometimes in the rush of the serving line, this cannot be done. This system, however, cannot completely solve the problem; some students do not eat as much as they should, while others could eat much more than they are given. All, however, receive enough food to carry them through the school day.

Q. Have all chemistry classes obtained the full quota of equipment for experiments (a few weeks ago, equipment had not arrived)?

A. Chemistry equipment and supplies for the 1956-57 school year have not been received in the school. The equipment and supplies normally stocked in the school for one chemistry room are being shared by two teachers in two rooms. Up to this time some inconvenience has resulted, but the basic program conducted in the school has not been materially affected.

Q. Why cannot we have report cards every six weeks instead of nine?

A. When the senior high school teachers considered thisproblem prior to departing from a six-weeks' reporting schedule they considered as carefully as possible the advantages and disadvantages of sending reports to parents every nine weeks. There is a great deal of clerical work required of teachers in the preparation of and handling of these reports. Teachers felt that their time could be better spent on activities that made a more direct contribution to students' learning.

Q. Do the twelfth grade teachers attempt to apportion the homework assignments so that no one subject absorbs an unreasonable amount of time, to the detriment of other subjects?

A. Teachers ask themselves this question when assigning homework: "If I multiply the time that it will take to accomplish homework that I have assigned by five, can it it be accomplished without encroaching upon the normal life pattern of adolescents (which should include recreational free choice activities, family and church centered activities, and adequate rest)?" Some teachers assign bits of homework to be done each night, others assign homework to be done over longer periods - a week, a month, or even several months. Students are learnin to budget their time and plan ahead, but sometimes they ignore the planning demands of long-term assignments and then are confronted by the necessity of completing all of the long-term assignment and their daily assignment in an evening, or a week end. When this happens an unreasonable amount of time must be apportioned if the requirements are to be met. Adequate student planning and scheduling of all commitments should result in a challenging schedule that requires hard work and makes a definite contribution to his high school education. This is the point of view within which present homework arrangements are made.

Q. Should we have a graduation exercise for our 9th grade?

A. Graduation exercises for students finishing their elementary school experience were once a part of our common experience. During the early part of this century such ceremonials had significance because for many students completion of the first eight or nine years marked the end of their formal schooling. Gradually, as our hope for a 12-year school program for each student became more of a reality we began to abandon the formal graduation ceremony for students who were graduating from elementary or junior high school. Awards assemblies are now used at the end of the ninth year; this ceremonial does not imply that there is any unusual significance attached to the transition from the ninth to the tenth grade.

SPECIAL NOTICE - It was decided at the last Executive Committee meeting that a question and answer section in the bulletin might be helpful. The above questions were submitted by members of the Executive Committee and answered by members of the Faculty. If you have a question - send it to Dr. Wilson and, space permitting, we will attempt to answer it in the next bulletin.

WAKEFIELD PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Proposed Budget for School Year 1956-1957

INCOME:

Actual:			
Balance to start 1956-1957 School Year	$127.82		
Membership dues received thru Nov 5, 1956	880.70	$1,008.52	
Estimated:			
Additional membership dues - based on total membership of 900 families @ $1.50 each and 150 individuals @ $1.00 each for a total membership income of $1,500.00	$619.30		
Miscellaneous	2.18	621.48	$1,630.00

EXPENSES:

Fixed Charges - Dues:			
Actual - County - $4 for first 100 members $2 for each additional 100 (Membership as of May 15, 1956)	$ 42.00		
- District - 1½¢ per member (Membership as of Nov 1, 1956)	18.89	$ 60.89	
Estimated - State - 20¢ per member	$390.00		
National - 5¢ per member	97.50	487.50	
Committees:			
Citizenship		$ 15.00	
Curriculum & Parent Education:			
Handbook for 1956-1957	$192.00		
Other	23.00	215.00	
Health		15.00	
Hospitality		200.00	
Membership		25.00	
Publicity		250.00	720.00
Miscellaneous:			
Scholarship		$100.00	
Arlington County Council:			
American Education Week	$10.00		
Teacher Orientation Luncheon	32.50	42.50	
Delegate to State Convention		22.40	
Other		96.71	261.61
Carry-over to next School Year			100.00 $1,630.00